

**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Amanda S. Schilling et al.

Serial Number: 10/090,798

Art Unit: 1651

Filed: 03/06/2002

Examiner: Srivastava, Kailash C.

Title: **APPLICATION OF GERMINATION SOLUTION IMPROVED  
EFFICACY OF BIOLOGICAL DECONTAMINATION**

**DECLARATION OF AMANDA S. SCHILLING, M.S. UNDER RULE 131**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

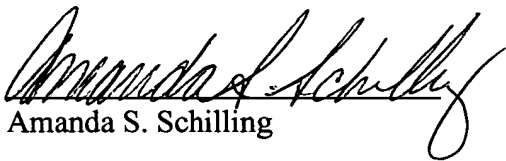
I, AMANDA S. SCHILLING, do hereby declare that I am authorized to make this Declaration with respect to the above-captioned patent application and that:

1. I am an original and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/090,798 which was filed on March 6, 2002, and is entitled APPLICATION OF GERMINATION SOLUTION IMPROVED EFFICACY OF BIOLOGICAL DECONTAMINATION.
2. I am presently employed by the United States Navy, the Assignee of the present invention, as a Scientist. I have been an employee of the United States Navy for five (5) years.
3. My educational background includes both B.S. and M.S. degrees in Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences from Virginia Tech of Blacksburg, VA.

4. I have spent four (4) years researching and investigating biological decontamination solutions.
5. I have reviewed the claims pending in the above-captioned patent application.
6. Prior to January 11, 2002, I had completed the invention as described and claimed in the above-captioned patent application (Invention), as evidenced by the following:
  - a. Prior to January 11, 2002, Brian Williamson, Angela Merisiowsky, Angel Fitzgerald, Susan Thomas, Shelia Kuhstoss and Jerry Brown, the other joint inventors, and I conceived the idea of an application of a germination solution to provide improved efficacy of biological decontamination.
  - b. On February 28, 2001, the Invention was first tested by the United States Navy, NSWC Dahlgren Division, with testing continuing from March 2001 through May 2001.
  - c. On May 15, 2001, a summary of the Invention entitled "Application of germination solution improves efficacy of biological decontamination Unclassified" was forwarded to my employer's patent counsel (Patent Counsel).
  - d. On August 16, 2001, the Patent Counsel initiated a contract for a prior art search of the Invention.
  - e. On November 2, 2001, the Patent Counsel initiated a contract for the preparation of a patent application for the Invention.
  - f. During the period of November 2, 2001 to March 4, 2002, I reviewed several revisions of a draft patent application for the Invention, with the patent application for the Invention submitted to the Patent Counsel on March 4, 2002.

g. On March 6, 2002, the patent application for the Invention was filed with the United States Patent Office, which was accorded a Serial Number of 10/090,798.

7. I further declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful and false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the present patent application or any patent issued thereon.

  
Amanda S. Schilling

17 May 2005  
Date